

#11 - A Retreat

(Bonnie Light Horseman)

Buttrey Manuscript #11
Chord Suggestions by Ian Bell

Chord suggestions for the first staff: C, C G, Am, Am G, C, G.

Chord suggestions for the second staff: Am, Em (1.), Em (2.), G, D G, C, C G.

Chord suggestions for the third staff: C, G, Am, Em, C (1.), Em (2.).

Measure numbers: 7, 14.

This tune also tunes up as the melody for a well-known Napoleonic broadside song called "The Bonnie Light Horseman" or "Broken Hearted I'll Wander", which is usually thought to be about the Battle of Waterloo. Its inclusion in this manuscript suggests the tune predates the words, by a few years at least.

The melody here is very similar to the one collected from Ben Henneberry of Devil's Island Nova Scotia when he sang "Bonnie Light Horseman" for folklorist Helen Creighton in the 1930s. His version can be found in her book "Songs and Ballads from Nova Scotia".